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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/577,482 | 04/27/2006 | Takeo Fujita | 0925-0224PUS1 | 6675 |
| 2292 | 7590 | 07/08/2010 | EXAMINER | |
| BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH PO BOX 747 FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747 | | | | CHU, RANDOLPH I |
| ART UNIT | | PAPER NUMBER | | |
| 2624 | | | | |
| NOTIFICATION DATE | | | DELIVERY MODE | |
| 07/08/2010 | | | ELECTRONIC | |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

mailroom@bskb.com

| | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
| | 10/577,482 | FUJITA ET AL. |
| | Examiner | Art Unit |
| | RANDOLPH CHU | 2624 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 7 April 2010.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) 5 and 10 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-4 and 6-9 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 4/27/2006 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. In response to applicant's amendment received on April 7, 2010, all requested changes to the claims have been entered.

Response to Argument

2. Applicant's arguments filed on April 7, 2010 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant's argue on page 12 of the response that the nowhere does Sato teach or suggest a correction coefficient calculating unit (or step) that calculates, based on a preliminarily set table that represents correspondences between distance-correction values and correction coefficients, a correction coefficient corresponding to the calculated distance-correction value. Although, Sato discloses a LUT 8, the values of the LUT are provided calculations of the number of pixels forming the maximum distances (diagonal lines) for each of seven types of semiconductor image pick-up devices, the number of pixels of which range from 790,000 pixels to 12,600,000 pixels and not based on a preliminary set table.

The examiner disagrees. The prior art of Sato does teach that Correction coefficient corresponding to the above distance value d (converted distance value) are output from the lookup table 8 (para [0047]).

Applicant's argue on page 12 of the response that Sato fails to teach or suggest a distance-correction value in which a variable used in determining the value can be changed to make adjustments. Furthermore, Sato fails to teach or suggest correcting a signal for a pixel based on a correction coefficient where the coefficients for the variable are changeable. Sato does not teach or suggest the ability to make dynamic adjustments for different properties of the apparatus by providing changeable variables and coefficients.

The examiner disagrees. The prior art of Sato teach that Correction coefficient are changeable depending on depending on seven types of semiconductor image pickup device (para [0043] and [0053]-[0056]).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-4 and 6-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Sato et al. (US 2003/0156204).

With respect to claim 1, Sato et al. teach a distance calculating step of calculating, by utilizing a distance calculating unit(Fig. 1 ref. label 4), the distance between the coordinates of an image-constituting pixel (a desired point) and predetermined reference coordinates (arbitrary origin) (para [0024]-[0028]);

a distance-correction value calculating step of calculating a distance-correction value (The distance value converted by the converter), by inputting for the calculated distance for corresponding variable in an N-order function (linear interpolation) which has coefficients for variable (N being a positive integer) (para [0031]-[0037], Fig. 1, ref. label 6, converter);

a correction coefficient calculating step of calculating, based on a preliminarily set table (Lookup table 8) that represents correspondences between distance-correction values and correction coefficients, a correction coefficient corresponding to the calculated distance-correction value (distance value d)(para [0044]-[0047]); and

a pixel signal correcting step of correcting a signal for the pixel, based on the calculated correction coefficient (para[0061]),

wherein the coefficients for the variable are changeable (para. [0055]).

With respect to claim 2, Sato et al. teach a correction coefficient calculating step of calculating the correction coefficient corresponding to the distance-correction value that has been calculated in the distance-correction value calculating step, by, based on the table that represents correspondences between distance-correction values and correction coefficients, linear interpolation using distance-correction-value data and

correction-coefficient data that are stored in the table (para [0044]-[0053]).

With respect to claim 3, Sato et al. teach that the reference coordinates in the distance calculating step, the coefficients for the variable in the N-order function in the distance-correction value calculating step, and the distance-correction values and correction coefficients stored in the table in the correction coefficient calculating step can be determined for each color component of the pixel (para [0031]-[0037]).

With respect to claim 4, Sato et al. teach that a distance calculating step of calculating the distance, by regarding as the distance the sum of the distance between the coordinates of a pixel corresponding to an image signal and the one of two sets of predetermined reference coordinates, and the distance between the coordinates of the pixel and the other of two sets of predetermined reference coordinates (para [0023]-[0030], distance and pseudo distance).

With respect to claim 6, Sato et al. please refer to rejection for claim 1.

With respect to claim 7, Sato et al. please refer to rejection for claim 2.

With respect to claim 8, Sato et al. please refer to rejection for claim 3.

With respect to claim 9, Sato et al. please refer to rejection for claim 4.

Conclusion

4. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to RANDOLPH CHU whose telephone number is (571)270-1145. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday from 7:30 am - 5 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vikkram Bali can be reached on 571-272-74157415. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For

more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

RIC/

/Anand Bhatnagar/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2624
July 3, 2010